

**Advisory Committee on the U.S. Geological Survey's Bird Banding Laboratory
Summary of Meeting November 29 and 30, 2005**

NOVEMBER 29, 2005 – INTRODUCTIONS/ORIENTATION

The Advisory Committee on the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) was convened for its first meeting at 8:30 A.M. on November 29, 2005 at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC), Laurel, MD.

In accordance with Public Law 92-463 the meeting was open to the public for its entirety except for the time devoted to a tour of the physical facilities (1:00-3:00 P.M. November 29, 2005) due to space limitations.

Committee members present:

Mr. Paul Schmidt, Co-Chair	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Dr. Susan Haseltine, Co-Chair	U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Mr. Daniel James	USGS/ Designated Federal Officer
Dr. Charles Francis	Canadian Wildlife Service
Dr. Paul Green	National Audubon Society
Dr. David Bonter	Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Dr. Paul Doherty	Colorado State University
Ms. Ellen Paul	The Ornithological Council
Mr. Brad Bales	National Flyway Council/IAFWA
Dr. C. John Ralph	North American Banding Council
Dr. Richard Lancia	The Wildlife Society
Dr. Jasper Lament	Ducks Unlimited
Mr. Rick Young	Pheasants Forever
Dr. David DeSante	Institute for Bird Populations
Dr. Joseph Jehl	Retired Ornithologist/Bander

Also present:

Dr. John Rogers—Facilitator, The Conservation Fund
Mr. Lawrence Mellinger, Esq.--Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior
Ms. Monica Tomosy—Chief of the Bird Banding Laboratory, PWRC
Dr. Graham Smith—Research Manager, PWRC
Mr. Paul Dresler—Coordinator, Status and Trends of Biological Resources Program, USGS
Dr. Judd Howell—Director, PWRC, USGS
Mr. Bradley Knudsen—Manager, Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Mr. Robert Blohm—Assistant Chief, Migratory Bird Management Office, FWS
Dr. Marshall Howe, PWRC

No members of the public were in attendance

The meeting began with a number of items to serve as an orientation to the Committee of its responsibilities. The Co-Chairs expressed their expectations and needs for a long-term, big picture vision for the BBL and urged the Committee to avoid getting into the detailed concerns that are day-to-day management issues. Mr. Larry Mellinger gave a briefing on The Federal Advisory Committee Act and Committee member responsibilities.

The next set of topics served as an introduction and orientation to the BBL and its staff. The Chief made a general presentation followed by a tour of the facility combined with staff explanations of their functions at each stop. Individual staff members then gave short presentations on the issues that they felt are the most pressing and deserving of the Committee's attention.

NOVEMBER 30, 2005 – IDENTIFY COMMITTEE ISSUES

As the first day served as an orientation to a number of issues, the second was designed for the Committee to begin its work. This began by a quick survey of the group to see if any member felt that they required additional information prior to beginning the task. The DFO then reviewed the charter to ensure that the entire Committee was aware of the issues it presented.

The first substantive issue addressed was the Mission for the BBL, and an extensive discussion ensued before a draft-working mission statement was developed. Subsequently the Committee developed a list of the primary elements that should be contained within a vision for the BBL.

The Committee next moved to enumeration of the issues that they felt needed to be addressed. The first issues were those identified by staff as well as those in the charter. Issues raised by the Committee members supplemented this list. The Committee then sorted the issues among the vision elements and divided up into smaller groups in order to develop crisp statements of each of the issues.

Between this meeting and the next (tentatively scheduled for February 15 and 16, 2006) the smaller groups will complete their work, circulate the results among the entire Committee, and revise the statements. Prior to the next meeting the reviewed draft issue statements will be distributed to the entire Committee and they will form the basis of the deliberations at that meeting.

Finally, the public was offered an opportunity to comment, but as no members of the public were present, there was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M. on November 30, 2005.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Susan Haseltine, Ph.D.
Co-Chair
Federal Advisory Committee on the Bird Banding Laboratory

_____signed_____ December 16, 2005
Date

Paul Schmidt
Co-Chair
Federal Advisory Committee on the Bird Banding Laboratory

_____signed_____ December 22, 2005
Date

These minutes will be formally considered by the Committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.